

Panama Canal Regulations

§ 111.23

in length the sidelights may be combined in one lantern carried on the fore and aft centerline of the vessel.

(c) *Sternlight* means a white light placed as nearly as practicable at the stern showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 135 degrees and so fixed as to show the light 67.5 degrees from right aft on each side of the vessel.

(d) *Towing light* means a yellow light having the same characteristics as the *sternlight* defined in paragraph (c) of this section.

(e) *All-round light* means a light showing an unbroken light over an arc of the horizon of 360 degrees.

(f) *Flashing light* means a light flashing at regular intervals at a frequency of 120 flashes or more per minute.

§ 111.22 Visibility of lights (Rule 22).

The lights prescribed in this part shall have an intensity as specified in section 8 of Annex I to 72 COLREGS so as to be visible at the following minimum ranges:

(a) In vessels of 50 meters or more in length:

- (1) A masthead light, 6 miles;
- (2) A sidelight, 3 miles;
- (3) A sternlight, 3 miles;
- (4) A towing light, 3 miles;
- (5) A white, red, green or yellow all-round light, 3 miles.

(b) In vessels of 12 meters or more in length but less than 50 meters in length:

- (1) A masthead light, 5 miles; except that where the length of the vessel is less than 20 meters, 3 miles;
- (2) A sidelight, 2 miles.
- (3) A sternlight, 2 miles;
- (4) A towing light, 2 miles;
- (5) A white, red, green or yellow all-round light, 2 miles.

(c) In vessels of less than 12 meters in length:

- (1) A masthead light, 2 miles;
- (2) A sidelight, 1 mile;
- (3) A sternlight, 2 miles;
- (4) A towing light, 2 miles;
- (5) A white, red, green or yellow all-round light, 2 miles.

(d) In inconspicuous, partly submerged vessels or objects being towed:

- (1) A white all-round light, 3 miles.

§ 111.23 Power-driven vessels under way (Rule 23).

(a) A power-driven vessel under way shall exhibit:

- (1) A masthead light forward;
- (2) A second masthead light abaft of and higher than the forward one; except that a vessel of less than 50 meters in length shall not be obliged to exhibit such light but may do so;
- (3) Sidelights; and
- (4) A sternlight.

(b) An air-cushion vessel when operating in the non-displacement mode shall, in addition to the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section, exhibit an all-round flashing yellow light.

(c)(1) A power-driven vessel of less than 12 meters in length may in lieu of the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section exhibit an all-round white light and sidelights;

(2) A power-driven vessel of less than 7 meters in length and whose maximum speed does not exceed 7 knots may, in lieu of the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section, exhibit an all-round white light, and shall, if practicable, also exhibit sidelights;

(3) The masthead light or all-round white light on a power-driven vessel of less than 12 meters in length may be displaced from the fore and aft centerline of the vessel if centerline fitting is not practicable, provided that the sidelights are combined in one lantern which shall be carried on the fore and aft centerline of the vessel or located as nearly as practicable in the same fore and aft line as the masthead light or the all-round white light.

(d) A vessel employed in the transportation or transfer of flammable, explosive, toxic, or radioactive commodities shall carry, in addition to her appropriate mooring, anchor, or navigation lights, where it can best be seen, a red light of such a character as to be visible all around the horizon at a distance of at least 2 miles. By day she shall display, where it can best be seen, a red flag if the cargo includes flammable or explosive commodities and the international single flag hoist signal "T" if the commodity is toxic or radioactive only.

[48 FR 52704, Nov. 22, 1983, as amended at 50 FR 19679, May 10, 1985]

§ 111.24 Towing and pushing (Rule 24).

(a) A power-driven vessel when towing shall exhibit:

(1) Instead of the light prescribed in § 111.23(a)(1) or § 111.23(a)(2), two masthead lights in a vertical line. When the length of the tow, measuring from the stern of the towing vessel to the after end of the tow exceeds 200 meters; three such lights in a vertical line;

(2) Sidelights;

(3) A sternlight;

(4) A towing light in a vertical line above the sternlight; and

(5) When the length of the tow exceeds 200 meters, a diamond shape where it can best be seen.

(b) When a pushing vessel and a vessel being pushed ahead are rigidly connected in a composite unit they shall be regarded as a power-driven vessel and exhibit the lights prescribed in § 111.23 (Rule 23).

(c) A power-driven vessel when pushing ahead or towing alongside, except in the case of a composite unit, shall exhibit:

(1) Instead of the light prescribed in § 111.23(a)(1) or § 111.23(a)(2) (Rule 23(a)(1) or (a)(2), two masthead lights in a vertical line;

(2) Sidelights; and

(3) A sternlight.

(d) A power-driven vessel to which paragraph (a) or (c) of this section apply shall also comply with § 111.23(a)(2) (Rule 23(a)(2)).

(e) A vessel or object being towed, other than those mentioned in paragraph (g) of this section, shall exhibit:

(1) Sidelights;

(2) A sternlight; and

(3) When the length of the tow exceeds 200 meters, a diamond shape where it can best be seen.

(f) Provided that any number of vessels being towed alongside or pushed in a group shall be lighted as one vessel;

(1) A vessel being pushed ahead, not being part of a composite unit, shall exhibit at the forward end, sidelights;

(2) A vessel being towed alongside shall exhibit a sternlight and at the forward end, sidelights.

(g) An inconspicuous, partly submerged vessel or object, or combination of such vessels or objects being towed, shall exhibit:

(1) If it is less than 25 meters in breadth, one all-round white light at or near the forward end and one at or near the after end except that dracones need not exhibit a light at or near the forward end;

(2) If it is 25 meters or more in breadth, two additional all-round white lights at or near the extremities of its breadth;

(3) If it exceeds 100 meters in length, additional all-round white lights between the lights prescribed in paragraphs (g)(1) and (2) of this section so that the distance between the lights shall not exceed 100 meters;

(4) A diamond shape at or near the aftermost extremity of the last vessel or object being towed and if the length of the tow exceeds 200 meters an additional diamond shape where it can best be seen and located as far forward as is practicable.

(h) Where from any sufficient cause it is impracticable for a vessel or object being towed to exhibit the lights or shapes prescribed in paragraph (e) or (g) of this section, all possible measures shall be taken to light the vessel or object towed or at least to indicate the presence of the unlighted vessel or object.

(i) Where from any sufficient cause it is impracticable for a vessel not normally engaged in towing operations to display the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) or (c) of this section, such vessel shall not be required to exhibit those lights when engaged in towing another vessel in distress or otherwise in need of assistance. All possible measures shall be taken to indicate the nature of the relationship between the towing vessel and the vessel being towed as authorized by § 111.36 (Rule 36), in particular by illuminating the towline.

§ 111.25 Sailing vessels under way and vessels under oars (Rule 25).

(a) A sailing vessel under way shall exhibit:

(1) Sidelights; and

(2) A sternlight.

(b) In a sailing vessel of less than 20 meters in length the lights prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section may be combined in one lantern carried at or